(b) if so, the total amount of this capital by the end of March, 2007;

(c) the average rate of annual increase in this capital during the last three years;

(d) whether Government has formulated any policy regarding investing this surplus capital in production again; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey, 2005-06, the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) had a cash and bank balance of Rs. 1,50,680 crore, Rs. 1,29,428 crore and Rs. 84, 979 crore as on 31.3.2006, 31.3.2005 and 31.3.2004 representively.

(c) The annual increase in the cash and bank balances during the year 2005-06 was 16.42% over the year 2004-05 and 52.31% during the year 2004-05 over the year 2003-04.

(d) and (e) Boards of concerned CPSEs take decision for deployment of surplus funds as stipulated in the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. Recently, the Government have also decided to allow Navratna and Mini-Ratna CPSEs to invest their surplus funds in SEBI regulated Public Sector Mutual Funds subject to certain conditions.

Merger/reorganization/technology conversion of sick PSUs

†805. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thay many Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) are running in losses in the country with the details of losses of each undertaking, year-wise;

(b) the number of undertakings given permission for their revival and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering upon any programme of merger/reorganization of these PSUs with other undertakings; and

(d) whether Government is considering upon any scheme to make these loss making undertakings profitable by technology conversion/advancement?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey (PE Survey) 2005-06, which is a public document and was laid before the both Houses of Parliament, 58 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have incurred losses of Rs. 5952 crore during the year 2005-06. The details of losses of each CPSE are available in Statement No. 7B of Volume 1 of PE Survey of the respective year.

(b) Based on the recommendations of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), Government have approved the proposals for revival of 26 cases of CPSEs through revival package/joint venture/disinvestment/merger and closure of 2 CPSEs involving total cash assistance of Rs. 8264 crore in the form of fresh infusion of funds, waiver/write-offs etc. In addition, Government have also approved revival package of Nagaland Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. envisaging total assistance of Rs. 788 crore from Government in the form of fresh infusion of funds, waivers/write-offs etc,

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendation of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) NEPA Ltd., HMT Bearings Limited, Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., British India Corporation, HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Central Inland Water Transport Corporation and Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. have been identified by the Government for revival through joint ventures. In addition, Government have also approved other merger/amalgamation like Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO) with SAIL, subsidiaries of NTC Ltd. with their holding company and Indian Airlines Ltd. with Air India Ltd.

Extension of pipelines gas connections in the country

806. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for extending pipelines gas connections in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating how much of financial assistance is required and how it will be fulfilled for providing piped gas connections in the country;

(c) whether any objections have been raised by the present dealers and distributers of IOC, IBP, HPCL and BPCL; and

(d) if so, what are their objections towards Government's decision for extending piped gas-line in the country and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No such target has been fixed. The extension of pipeline gas connections in various parts of the country is linked with availability of gas, commissioning of necessary infrastructure and economic viability. Government of India does not allocate funds for providing piped gas connections in the country. Entities allocate and spend funds according to the plans of their projects.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The LPG distributors, appointed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), have not raised any objection. However, All India LPG Distributors Federation (AILPGDF) has submitted a representation for rehabilitation of pipe gas affected distributors which, *inter alia*, requested for resitement of distributorships to alternative areas where pipeline network expansion is in progress. OMCs have reported that they have noted the position about the expansion of piped gas network while planning new LPG distributorships in the country.

Pricing of gas imported from Iran

807. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are some differences with Iran or pricing method of Gas as well as conflicts with Pakistan on gas transport tariff;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(d) what strategy Government would like to take for getting enough natural gas for the future need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas